

News Release



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Archeological Investigations at Donner Memorial State Park Rescheduled

California State Parks announced today that it must delay the implementation of an archeological site investigation at Donner Memorial State Park. The start date was pushed back in order to complete the required preliminary planning. Originally planned for mid-June, the investigation is now scheduled for mid-August.

To clarify information about this investigation, the intent of the proposed excavation is not to initiate a project for academic research. It is, rather, an investigation that is a part of the standard environmental compliance for the construction of the new High Sierra Crossing Museum. The museum project is partially financed by a federally funded Caltrans grant program. One of the requirements for use of this funding is to ensure that there will not be adverse impacts to cultural resources. This requirement is also part of California State Park's mission to protect California's most valued cultural resources.

Prior to beginning construction activities for the new museum, a team of archaeologists, including private consultants and California State Parks staff, will perform archaeological testing in the planned area of construction. While the known Donner Party cabin sites are outside of our construction area, the intent of these excavations is to make sure we are avoiding adverse impacts to prehistoric or historic archaeological deposits. If necessary the new facilities will be designed to avoid impacts on the cultural resources. Construction of the museum facilities will begin upon the conclusion of the archaeological investigations.

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